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SOURCE Obrona Lidu ('Defense of the People'), No 208, 1948. (Information requested.)

CZECH COAL, IRON, STEEL AND OTHER INDUSTRIAL DATA

In the Ostrava-Karvina field 1,100,000 tons of coal were mined in August; this was 5 percent less than the quota. The supplementary plan was only 91 percent fulfilled. In the first 8 months, the amount mined exceeded the estimate by 1.6 percent. The lower figure for August was caused by leaves of absence, absenteeism, and shortage of manpower. The average rate of absence at the mines was 36.9 percent. For the regular work of the state enterprise about 2,000 permanent or long-term brigade workers are lacking.

At the Vitkovice ironworks, the plan and the supplementary plan were fulfilled by 16 plants out of 43. Production of pig iron achieved 116.1 percent of the plan and 99.2 percent of the supplementary plan; production of steel, 105.1 percent of the plan and 98.4 percent of the supplementary plan. The boiler factory, steel-casting plant, switch-making plant, and bridge-building plant fulfilled their two-year plan completely in August. There is a shortage of 556 workers for September. The ironworks at Trinec filled their assignments as follows: blast furnaces 111 percent, supplementary plan 102 percent; steel mills 11 percent ~~100~~, supplementary plan 94 percent.

The automobile works at Koprivnice fulfilled their plan in the production of Type T-87 passenger automobiles 30 percent; Type T-57, 250 percent; and in the production of trucks, 20 percent. The program for passenger vehicles was not fulfilled due to the lack of manpower and tooling machines; that for trucks, due to the poor delivery of material. The car works at Studanka were to produce 193 cars, but produced only 26.

The brickworks filled their production program 90-100 percent. Completion of the plan is threatened by une sufficient sale of bricks, which results in the accumulation of brick supplies. If an improvement in the distribution of bricks is not forthcoming (by selling them in Slovakia or other regions, for example), there is danger that the brickworks may have to restrict transportation. Construction plants are fulfilling their tasks in the face of shortages of manpower and installation material. About ten technicians and 4,000 other workers are lacking.

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The cotton mills filled their assignments 80 percent in the spinning mills and 100 percent in the weaving mills. Surprisingly, the force of 700 Polish workers was insufficient for the difficulties of the task. The woolen mills failed to fulfill their task under the two-year plan, due to the granting of leaves of absence to entire factories. The supplying of raw materials and coal is insufficient. The flax mills filled their plan 140 percent. The hat factories filled their deliveries to the US; these were generally complicated by short delivery deadlines. The majority of the orders came from Turkey, Belgium, and Switzerland; in filling these orders, work was done even on Sundays.

In general, a lack of manpower is evident in Silesian industry in almost all branches, especially in mining and forging. This is also true of chemistry, construction, heavy machinery, and the cotton and flax mills, where it is a question of women workers. This unfavorable situation might be helped by improved housing in large industrial centers, and by improved transportation of workers from remote localities.

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